In the Specification

Please amend the specification of the above referenced application as follows:

Please amend Paragraphs 111-117, and 123 as follows:

[0111] The expiratory tube 26 is manufactured is by first extruding a generally smooth tube having a constant diameter of approximately, 25 mm, in the most preferred embodiment. When the smooth tube emerges from the extruder, it generally has a smooth wall, of constant diameter. Shortly after emerging from the extruder and before the plastic has cooled to below its forming temperature, a series of corrugation-shape containing mold blocks, such as mold block 150 engage the outer surface of the expiratory tube 26, to form the corrugations in the expiratory tube 26. During this process, high pressure air is forced into the interior of the expiratory tube 26, to force the smooth wall of the expiratory tube 26 radially outwardly against the corrugated mold blocks. An exemplary corrugated mold block 150 is shown in the drawings, and is useful for understanding the manner in which the corrugations are formed, since the finished tube (22 and 26, as appropriate) of the present invention will generally conform to the shape of the mold block.

[0112] When viewing the mold blocks 150, it is important to remember that the mold blocks engaged the exterior surface of the tube (here, the tube that will emerge, when finished as expiratory tube 26). As such, the point that appears to be a nadir point of the mold block (e.g. point 224 of Fig. 7) is actually a peak point 224, as point 224 will define a

shape of a peak point 124 of the finished expiratory tube 26. Similarly, ~~nadir~~ peak point 226 of the mold block (Fig. 7) will define the shape of the nadir point 126 of the finished expiratory tube 26. First leg 228 defines the shape of a first leg 128 of the finished expiratory tube 26, and second leg 230 defines the shape of the second leg 130 of the finished expiratory tube 26 (Fig. 4).

[0113] As best shown in Fig. 7, the nadir point 226 of the mold block 150 is rounded, to form a rounded ~~nadir~~ peak point ~~130~~ of the finished expiratory tube 26. A sharp corner 231 is placed at the junction wherein the apex point 224 of the mold ~~nadir point 226~~ meets the first leg 228, which corresponds to a peak point of the finished expiratory tube 26.

[0114] The construction and shape of the ~~inspiratory~~ expiratory tube 26 described herein helps to provide it with its collapsibility, and its ability to maintain a rest length in both its expanded and its compressed positions. In this regard, the rounded nadir points formed by form block at nadir points 226 of the mold block (which become peak points of the finished expiratory tube 26 cause the finished tube 26, to contain a plurality of microscopic fissures, when moved between the compressed and expanded position. These microscopic fissures within the plastic of the expiratory tube 226 help to maintain the ~~corrugations~~ pleats in their expanded and/or compressed position, as so desired. When in use, it has been found that each pleat ~~corrugation~~, e.g. 120, 122 (Fig. 4) generally is capable of maintaining two rest positions, with one being the fully expanded position, and the other being the fully compressed position. As a general rule, the individual ~~corrugations~~ pleats do not maintain a rest position at points between their compressed and expanded position.

[0115] Viewing the two on a global scale, the plurality of rest positions that can be achieved

by the tube is largely a function of the number of particular individual corrugations that are placed in their respective expanded and compressed positions. For example, when the finished tube 26 is fully stretched, most (if not all) of the pleats ~~corrugations~~, e.g. 120, 122 are placed in their expanded position. When the finished tube is in its fully compressed position, most (if not all) of the pleats ~~corrugations~~, e.g. 120, 122 are placed in their compressed positions.

[0116] When the finished tube 26 is at an intermediate length between its fully compressed and fully expanded positions, some of the individual pleats ~~corrugations~~, e.g. 120, 122 are placed in their expanded position, where as others are placed in their relatively compressed position.

[0123] As alluded to above, the relative sizing between the inspiratory tube 22 and the expiratory tube 26 proved to be a difficult engineering challenge for the Applicants to achieve. In order to achieve appropriate sizes, Applicants believed it important to ensure that the expiratory passageway 34 between the radially inwardly most point of the expiratory tube, here shown as nadir point 130, and the radially outwardly most point of the inspiratory tube 22, here shown as peak point 140 be great enough so that the expiratory passageway 34 was large enough, to permit expiratory gasses to flow there through with minimal resistence. In this regard, the flow resistence of the breathing circuit should be such that at 60 liters/minute of flow, the pressure drop across the circuit is no more than about 5 cm of water. On the other hand, the difference in size should not be too large, because too large of a gap between the outer surface of the inspiratory tube 22 and the inner surface of the expiratory tube 26 causes

difficulties in expanding and retracting the inspiratory tube 22.